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LEAGUE TABLES AS AT SEPTEMBER 13, 1952

FIRST DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts
Juventus	17	12	5	0	60	19	29
Brighton	18	11	5	2	58	36	27
J.U.S.T.	17	9	5	3	60	27	23
Box Hill	18	9	4	5	50	33	22
Yallourn	18	7	3	8	34	35	17
Prahran	18	6	3	9	37	59	15
Park Rangers	18	6	2	10	35	46	14
Footscray City	18	3	5	10	22	47	11
South Yarra	18	2	7	9	19	44	11
Sunshine United	18	3	3	12	24	53	9

Fourth Division

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P
Maccabi	20	16	1	3	95	33	33
Dandenong	20	15	1	4	77	30	31
Frankston	20	13	2	5	88	35	28
Maribyrnong	18	13	1	4	59	34	27
Apollo	18	11	1	6	48	33	23
Slavia	19	11	1	7	52	37	23
Vic. Police	20	7	2	11	31	70	16
Ringwood	20	5	3	12	35	48	13
R.A.A.F.	20	3	1	16	16	53	7
Union Jack	18	3	0	15	21	108	6
Heidelberg	19	2	1	16	20	71	5

Second Division
(As at August 30, 1952)

Moreland	18	17	0	1	110	23	34
Melb. Hakoah	18	16	0	2	92	29	32
Preston	18	9	1	8	39	36	19
Int. Harvester	18	9	1	8	29	46	19
Sandringham City	18	8	2	8	51	46	18
Sunshine City	18	6	2	10	33	48	14
F.N.D.	18	6	2	10	24	60	14
South Melb. United	18	6	0	12	37	45	12
George Cross	18	6	0	12	24	56	12
Coburg United	18	3	0	15	28	78	6

League completed, promoted to First Division — Moreland and Melbourne Hakoah. Relegated to Third Division — George Cross and Coburg United.

Third Division
(As at August 30, 1952)

Polonia	18	18	0	0	89	8	36
White Eagles	18	11	4	3	54	26	26
Ulsterville	18	11	1	6	57	28	23
Moorabbin City	18	10	3	5	41	24	23
Fairfield	18	11	0	7	43	38	22
Williamstown	18	9	2	7	35	30	20
Melb. University	18	5	3	10	32	57	13
Woo'ands	18	3	1	14	10	53	7
Royal Caledonians	18	2	1	15	17	64	5
Olympic	18	1	3	14	13	63	5

League completed, promoted to Second Division — Polonia and White Eagles. Relegated to Fourth Division — Olympic. Withdrawn from League — Royal Caledonians.

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First Semi-Final Number

Soccer NEWS

★

The Official Organ of the VICTORIAN AMATEUR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Vol. 5, No. 26 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER, 20, 1952 Price 6d.

No wonder Italy can offer fortunes to Footballers

(From Glasgow Weekly News)

Where does Italy get the money to make these fabulous offers to British football stars?

That's the question of the moment following Palermo's fantastic offer to England and Preston winger Tom Finney.

A £10,000 signing fee. £130 a month plus bonuses. A house and car £30,000 to Preston. And all for just two seasons' service.

Well, it doesn't come out of gate money. Average gates in Italy are actually smaller than England's, just a shade ahead of Scotland's. Their top teams, for instance, can't approach Rangers and Celtic figures. Nor are there any cup competitions to boost the kitty.

Like ourselves, Italy has A, B, and C, Division — 20 clubs in A, 20 in B, and 18 in each of four-zoned sections of C Division. Three clubs have dominated in recent years — Internazionale, Milan, and Juventus, all heavily strengthened by foreign stars.

Games between these top-liners may draw 80,000. Average for top-class games is 30,000. Palermo, who made the Finney offer, are at present averaging 14,000. Gate money is roughly double ours — 2/6 for terracing at an ordinary game. There is no assistance from pools — Totocalcio to the Italians.

BIG BUSINESS

Yet the Finney bid is only the latest of a long series. The Italians have been paying colossal sums for years to get top Scandinavian, Argentine, and other foreign cracks. Last year Lazio tried for Third Lanark's Jimmy Mason. Celtic's John McPhail had a wonderful offer from Palermo. Arsenal's Jimmy Logie was another tempted.

So once again — how is it done?

The answer lies in backing being given the clubs by wealthy industrialists. For instance, the huge Fiat motor firm backs Milan. The Palermo president is fabulously wealthy Raymond Da Tribia. It is they who put

(Continued on Page 4)

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Editorial

All communications re Soccer News must be sent to the Editor, V. J. M. Dixon, 42 Nelson Street, Sandringham, S.8, by first post on Monday.

The arrival of the Cup semi-finals brings the realisation that the end of the season is in sight. Soon we shall be racking our brains to find some means of spending Saturday afternoons, for when football finishes it leaves us with a blank for a week or two.

This year's Cup competition has now been reduced to four teams, but, whereas last season one semi-finalist was a Second Division club, this year all are from the First Division.

Today's game is between First Division runners-up—Brighton—and Prahran, who are a much improved side since the early part of the season when they were battling to avoid relegation.

Providing that today's game does not end in a draw, next week will see the second semi-final between those old rivals, J.U.S.T. and Juventus. Last year Brighton and J.U.S.T. met in the Final and it is possible that they will meet once again this year.

The Brighton club are unlucky in losing Scott, their goalkeeper, who broke a finger in a friendly game last Sunday against Moreland at Seymour, where the two teams had gone to propagate the game and assist local charity. This game, which drew a large crowd despite the rain, was a great success and assurances were made to Mr. Thomas (chairman of the V.A.S.F.A.) and myself by Councillor Carboy, that strenuous efforts will now be made to get soccer going in the Seymour district. As regards the game itself the Moreland team were far too strong for Brighton on the day and won 6-3. The effort of Reg Hardman in scoring five of his team's six goals was particularly good. There is no doubt that the Moreland team play a most attractive brand of football and will be a great asset to the First Division next season.

So on to today's semi-final and may we all enjoy good weather and fine football.

Back numbers of Soccer News may be obtained from the Distribution Manager, Mr. H. V. Rose, 12 Fisher Street, East Malvern. Price, 1/- per copy, post free. (Stamps not accepted.)

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HOME *and* AWAY

By REX BENSON

★

LUCKY FOOTSCRAY

So Footscray City breathe again in Division 1, thanks to token resistance only from a weak Yallourn team. It is interesting to note that extremely heavy fines have been levied on English League clubs who fielded weak teams in League games, to safeguard key players for important cup games.

CUP WINNERS BEATEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Newcastle United were beaten on the South African tour by the Springbok team, 5-3. Now three members of this side have gained English First Division teams.

HOT NEWS

The "Herald" last Saturday reported the result of the Polonia-J.U.S.T., giving a win to J.U.S.T. This was quite correct, BUT — the game had been played on the previous Saturday. How do they keep so up to date?

BONUS MONEY

English League clubs are now compelled to pay bonus money for drawn or won matches. Most fans were surprised to find that some clubs were not in the habit of doing so.

CUP FINAL DATE

With so many postponed games and cup-tie drawn matches, even after extra time, the Dockerty Cup Final might well be delayed until Melbourne Cup Day, as happened once before.

BIG CUT FOR PLAYER

Unlike English clubs, players transferred in Italy claim one-third of the transfer fee. This has benefited Hans Jeppson, who was recently transferred to Naples F.C. for £60,000. Jeppson received a share of the £20,000 "Atalanta' originally paid for him, plus a luxurious car given him when his efforts saved the club from relegation.

SOCCER IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The soccer championship of the West seems certain to go to North Perth, who beat Azzurri, the Italian team, 3-1, in one of the deciding games. 7000 people watched the match.

SHARP PRACTICE

Eintracht (Brunswick), a German League club, has been expelled from soccer for bribing opponents to lose against them in order to avoid relegation.

Letter To The Editor

Sir,—I read with some fear and misgiving that the V.A.S.F.A. had received applications for the coaching position from the Scottish Football Association. To appoint a Scottish coach would mean the introduction of **Scottish football** and the going out of soccer, for, believe me, the difference is very great. Having witnessed what the predomination of Scotch players has done in other parts, I fear for Australia, for actually to have a coach teach **Scottish football** would be like importing a germ-spreading disease. I hope the V.A.S.F.A. will think very seriously about this, for it is really a very serious matter. Please accept for consideration my name as a candidate to be coached in "The Coaching of Coaches School," but not, of course, if it is by a Scotch coach.—Yours, etc. G. E. CLARKE.

[Mr. G. Clarke is well known in the Kiewa Valley as one who has largely been responsible for starting soccer in that area. His views are very interesting, but are not necessarily the opinion of Soccer News.—EDITOR.]

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Today's Semi-Finalists

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Greig — Cullen

Thomas — Walker — Parvin

Balabanski — Stoddart — Barr — Wilson — McKenzie

Thomas — Ewing — Grant — Bambro — Wilson

Pederick — Bakens — Remmers

Barbour — Paul

Roberts

PRAHRAN

These teams are subject to last minute alteration.

Cobram Soccer Club

Cobram once again defeated Benalla, cup holders, at Cobram showgrounds on Sunday, September 7. The first half both sides were playing hard but did not manage to score. In the second half the game moved fast. Fifteen minutes before the end, when Jim Purden kicked the first goal for Cobram, the game became very exciting, and Benalla lost ground, when Jim Purden in a few minutes scored two more goals, which gave Benalla goal-keeper no chance. Benalla scored one goal from a penalty, making the score, Cobram, 3; Benalla, 1. We must give good mention to all Cobram team members, especially Jim Purden and Peter Brubaart.—J. MUSCARELLA.

No wonder Italy . . . (Contd. from 1)

up the money for the foreign stars. They regard football as a grand safety valve for their workers.

A MAYOR NOW

The excitable, emotional Italians make idols of leading players. Typical was the honour done to Amadei, the fellow who scored the equalising goal in the recent international with England. He was promptly made Deputy Mayor of Rome!

Mind you, there isn't anything like unanimous support for this policy of importing the world's best players. Indeed, the "antis" have managed to get the allowance of foreign stars cut to two players a club as from next season.

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Border District Association

MORELAND v. B.D.S.F.A.

The Moreland team which visited Albury on behalf of the V.A.S.F.A. to play a combined B.D.S.F.A. team, gave a fine account of themselves. On Saturday, September 6, they played a friendly game against Mount Beauty United in the shadow of the snow-covered Mount Bogong (Victoria's highest mountain). A fair crowd appreciated the nice touches of the Moreland team and after the game congratulatory speeches were made by officials of the Mount Beauty club at a tea in Moreland's honour. Mr. Thomas, chairman of the V.A.S.F.A., and Mr. Stewart, assistant secretary of the V.A.S.F.A., responded. On Sunday, September 7, Moreland played the Border District Association team at Albury. The first half hour of the game was closely contested, but two quick goals by Moreland changed the game completely.

Moreland continued to get more on top and the final score of 6-nil in Moreland's favor gave a good indication of their superiority.

Moreland played at their best and beautiful football was seen in all departments of the team. The B.D.S.F.A. suffered somewhat from players playing in positions which were unfamiliar to them. Nevertheless, it was obvious to all, that with more practice against tougher opposition the B.D.S.F.A. team will be a force to take note of. After the game Moreland presented a trophy to "Millan," the B.D.S.F.A. outside-right, for the best and fairest performance.

A good crowd of more than 600, which included Messrs. Thomas, Stewart and Dixon, of the V.A.S.F.A., saw the game and favorable comments were heard all around. The Moreland team made a great impression in Albury by their football, their smart appearance and their demeanor on and off the ground.

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Jimmy Hagan

(of SHEFFIELD UNITED and ENGLAND)

Says

(From Charles Buchan's Football Monthly)

Jimmy Hagan

Let's take the off-side rule, as it is at present constituted. Bluntly, I think it should be abolished at once.

It spoils good football moves. It is the cause of much disagreement. At times, referees, linesmen, players and spectators are quite unable to say whether a man is off-side or not.

Take the case of the linesman who is usually the chief official so far as this law is concerned. He has to be watching the ball when it is kicked. He has also, at the same instant, to be able to tell where an attacking forward and a defender (both travelling in opposite directions at speed) were placed when the ball was kicked.

An unenviable task!

There is no doubt that the exciting and entertaining part of football is always in the goal areas. Spectators like to see the ball there.

Yet the offside rule tends to keep the ball and play away from the goal areas. And goal-less draws, with mid-field play predominating, are never very entertaining.

Against my own view you may hear it said that a change would result in the centre-forward playing right up near the goalkeeper. Well, what of it?

(Continued Opposite)

Ivan Kuketz

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The centre-forward would have the centre-half marking him. And the same applies to other forwards. If they stayed well upfield there would be a defender marking each of them.

I would like to see defenders gaining possession of the ball by good tackling and interception — not by moving two or three yards forward and appealing for offside.

There is nothing more disappointing than watching two teams playing the offside game which makes good moves break down just when they are becoming interesting to the crowd.

W.A. Tributes To Victorian Players

Western Australia's Soccer Mail lauds the efforts of the Victorian players in the Australian XI in Perth.

Eric Heath "specialised in solid tackling and fine kicking from almost any angle."

Bill Copeland "captivated the crowd with his lovely foot-work and swerving."

Pat Clarke, "a true stopper," made some amazing leaps to clear with his head, while his first time 'punting' thwarted the Western Australia forwards."

Angus Drennen did not play in the game referred to.

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